



March 14, 2002

**BOX PCT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PCT/FR00/02516  
-filed September 12, 2000

Re: Application of Dany RAY and Frank PLESSIS  
A DISPENSER DEVICE HAVING A FITTED FIXING RING  
Assignee: VALOIS S.A.  
Our Ref: Q68978

Dear Sir:

The following documents and fees are submitted herewith in connection with the above application for the purpose of entering the National stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and in accordance with Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty:

- ☒ an English translation of the International Application.
- ☒ two (2) sheets of drawings.
- ☒ an English translation of Article 34 amendments (annexes to the IPER).
- ☒ a Preliminary Amendment

The Declaration and Power of Attorney, Assignment, will be submitted at a later date.

It is assumed that copies of the International Search Report, the International Preliminary Examination Report, and any Articles 19 amendments as required by § 371(c) will be supplied directly by the International Bureau, but if further copies are needed, the undersigned can easily provide them upon request.

The Government filing fee, after consideration of the Preliminary Amendment, is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>11</u>	-	20	=		x	\$18.00	=	\$0.00
Independent claims	<u>1</u>	-	3	=		x	\$84.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee									\$890.00

**TOTAL FEE** \$890.00

A check for the statutory filing fee of \$890.00 is attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.492 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
France	99/11501	September 15, 1999

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Seas, Jr.  
Registration No. 21,092

RJS/rwl

SCANNED, #12



SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

March 14, 2002

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France	99/11501	September 15, 1999

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Seas, Jr.  
 Registration No. 21,092

RJS/rwl

SCANNED, # 11

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Dany RAY , et al.

PCT Appln. No.: PCT/FR00/02516

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 14, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: A DISPENSER DEVICE HAVING A FITTED FIXING RING

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

3/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1, in which said body (10) also forms at least one outwardly-projecting bulge (13) situated below the collar (12), the ring (20) being disposed between the collar (12) and said at least one bulge (13) so that the ring is locked therebetween.

5/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3, in which the bulge (13) extends over the entire periphery of the body so as to form an outwardly projecting bead.

6/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3, in which a plurality of localized bulges (13) are provided that are distributed around the periphery of the body.

7/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1, in which the ring (20) is made of metal.

SCANNED, # 11

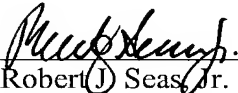
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Attorney Docket No. Q68978

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860  
RJS/rwl  
Date: March 14, 2002

  
Robert J. Sease, Jr.  
Registration No. 21,092

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Dany RAY , et al.

PCT Appln. No.: PCT/FR00/02516

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

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For: A DISPENSER DEVICE HAVING A FITTED FIXING RING

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

- 3/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1, in which said body (10) also forms at least one outwardly-projecting bulge (13) situated below the collar (12), the ring (20) being disposed between the collar (12) and said at least one bulge (13) so that the ring is locked therebetween.
- 5/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3, in which the bulge (13) extends over the entire periphery of the body so as to form an outwardly projecting bead.
- 6/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3, in which a plurality of localized bulges (13) are provided that are distributed around the periphery of the body.
- 7/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1, in which the ring (20) is made of metal.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Attorney Docket No. Q68978

8/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3, in which the ring (20) is made of plastic.

9/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1, in which the free top end (201) of the ring (20) is provided with an inside bevel (203) to make it easier for the ring (20) to pass over the bulge (13).

10/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1, in which the ring (20) is extended at its bottom end by a radial flange (21) serving to come into abutment against the neck of the receptacle with a gasket (3) being interposed.


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
Attorney Docket No. Q68978

**REMARKS**

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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
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Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
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RJS/rwl  
Date: March 14, 2002

  
Robert J. Seas, Jr.  
Registration No. 21,092

**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

3/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, in which said body (10) also forms at least one outwardly-projecting bulge (13) situated below the collar (12), the ring (20) being disposed between the collar (12) and said at least one bulge (13) so that the ring is locked therebetween.

5/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3-~~or 4~~, in which the bulge (13) extends over the entire periphery of the body so as to form an outwardly projecting bead.

6/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3-~~or 4~~, in which a plurality of localized bulges (13) are provided that are distributed around the periphery of the body.

7/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, in which the ring (20) is made of metal.

8/ A fluid dispenser device according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 3 to 7, in which the ring (20) is made of plastic.

9/ A fluid dispenser device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, in which the free top end (201) of the ring (20) is provided with an inside bevel (203) to make it easier for the ring (20) to pass over the bulge (13).

10/ A fluid dispenser device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, in which the ring (20) is extended at its bottom end by a radial flange (21) serving to come into abutment against the neck of the receptacle with a gasket (3) being interposed.



2/pstb

# A DISPENSER DEVICE HAVING A FITTED FIXING RING

The present invention relates to a fluid dispenser device designed to be mounted on the neck of a receptacle. The device comprises a dispensing member, such as a pump or a valve, and fixing means for fixing the dispensing member to the neck of the receptacle. In the fields of cosmetics, perfumes, or pharmaceuticals, it is frequent to use a pump or a valve mounted on a receptacle containing a fluid to be dispensed. To fix the pump or the valve to the neck of the receptacle, a fixing ring or turret is conventionally used that makes it possible both to take hold of the pump or of the valve, and also to fix it to the neck of the receptacle.

It is also known that the body of the pump or of the valve may be provided with a collar which extends radially outwards. The collar is generally formed at the top end of the body of the pump or of the valve. In conventional fixing means, the collar on the body is used to take hold of the pump or of the valve. When the fixing means are made of metal, they are then in the form of a metal cap in which the collar of the body is crimped. To fix the pump or the valve to the neck of the receptacle, it is then necessary merely to crimp the cap to the outside of the neck of the receptacle. When the fixing means are made of plastic, they are generally provided with a snap-fastening recess into which the collar of the body is inserted by force. To fix the ring made of plastic to the neck of the receptacle, the techniques of screwing or snap-fastening are generally used.

Regardless of whether the fixing means are made of metal or of plastic, they form a recess for the collar of the body of the pump or of the valve, and they therefore extend over the top face of the collar. This gives rise to extra thickness at the top face of the collar, and it also gives rise to an increase in the working diameter of

the pump as mounted, because the fixing means extend around the collar.

Document US 4 446 991 describes a dispenser comprising a valve forming a projecting collar at the top end of the body. The projecting collar is engaged with a  
 5 ring which is clamped around the collar. The ring extends around and above the collar.

An object of the present invention is to solve the above-mentioned problems of the prior art by defining a  
 10 dispenser device whose fixing means do not come into engagement around or above the collar of the body of the pump or of the valve.

To this end, the present invention provides a fluid dispenser device designed to be mounted on the neck of a  
 15 receptacle, said device comprising a dispensing member, such as a pump or a valve, and fixing means for fixing the dispensing member to the neck of the receptacle, said dispensing member comprising a body whose top end is provided with a collar that projects outwards, said fluid  
 20 dispenser device being characterized in that the fixing means comprise a substantially cylindrical ring engaged on the body under the collar, said ring being in peripheral leaktight contact with the body by being radially clamped thereon. Advantageously, the ring  
 25 defines a top end in abutment under the collar. The ring of the fixing means thus does not encase the collar of the body of the dispensing member, but rather it merely comes into abutment against the bottom face of said collar. In addition, sealing is provided between the  
 30 ring and the body, thereby preventing any leakage therebetween. The neck gasket of such a dispenser device provides sealing between the neck and the ring only, and not between the ring and the body. According to another characteristic of the invention, which may be implemented  
 35 with or without peripheral sealing, said body also forms at least one outwardly-projecting bulge situated below the collar, the ring being disposed between the collar

CORRECTED SHEET

2a

and said at least one bulge so that the ring is locked  
therebetween. The ring is thus literally wedged between  
the collar and the bulge(s). Advantageously, the ring is  
of height slightly greater than the distance between the  
5 bottom face of the collar and the foot of the bulge.

# CORRECTED SHEET

This translation of an amended page covers the amendments made in the original.  
However, the page breaks match the translation, so that this page is also a  
replacement page that fits in with the remainder of the translation.

the pump as mounted, because the fixing means extend around the collar.

An object of the present invention is to solve the above-mentioned problems of the prior art by defining a dispenser device whose fixing means do not come into engagement around or above the collar of the body of the pump or of the valve.

To this end, the present invention provides a fluid dispenser device designed to be mounted on the neck of a receptacle, said device comprising a dispensing member, such as a pump or a valve, and fixing means for fixing the dispensing member to the neck of the receptacle, said dispensing member comprising a body whose top end is provided with a collar that projects outwards, said fluid dispenser device being characterized in that the fixing means comprise a substantially cylindrical ring engaged on the body under the collar, said ring being in peripheral leaktight contact with the body by being radially clamped thereon. Advantageously, the ring defines a top end in abutment under the collar. The ring of the fixing means thus does not encase the collar of the body of the dispensing member, but rather it merely comes into abutment against the bottom face of said collar. In addition, sealing is provided between the ring and the body, thereby preventing any leakage therebetween. The neck gasket of such a dispenser device provides sealing between the neck and the ring only, and not between the ring and the body. According to another characteristic of the invention, which may be implemented with or without peripheral sealing, said body also forms at least one outwardly-projecting bulge situated below the collar, the ring being disposed between the collar and said at least one bulge so that the ring is locked therebetween. The ring is thus literally wedged between the collar and the bulge(s). Advantageously, the ring is of height slightly greater than the distance between the bottom face of the collar and the foot of the bulge.

Thus the ring is forced by the rising slope(s) of the bulge(s) against the bottom face of the collar. It can thus be said that the ring of the fixing means is genuinely snap-fastened to the body of the pump or of the valve.

In one embodiment, the bulge extends over the entire periphery of the body so as to form an outwardly projecting bead. In a variant, a plurality of localized bulges are provided that are distributed around the periphery of the body.

The ring may be made of metal or of plastic. Preferably, when the ring is made of metal, the free top end of the ring is provided with an inside bevel to make it easier for the ring to pass over the bulge. This prevents any damage from being done to the body of the pump or of the valve as the free end of the ring passes over it.

According to another characteristic, the ring is extended at its bottom end by a radial flange serving to come into abutment against the neck of the receptacle with a gasket being interposed. In addition, the radial flange is extended downwards by a socket suitable for being crimped, screwed, or snap-fastened onto the neck of the receptacle.

The invention is explained more fully below with reference to the accompanying drawings which give two embodiments of the invention by way of non-limiting example.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a vertical section view through a dispenser device in a first embodiment;

Figure 1a is an enlarged view of a detail outlined in Figure 1;

Figure 2 is a vertical section view through a dispenser device in a second embodiment; and

Figure 2a is an enlarged view of a detail outlined in Figure 2.

The first embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 1a differs from the second embodiment shown in Figures 2 and 2a mainly in that the fixing means of the first embodiment are made of metal whereas the fixing means of the second embodiment are made of molded plastic.

With reference to any of the figures, the fluid dispenser device of the invention comprises two main component parts, namely a dispensing member 1, which may be a pump or a valve, and fixing means 2 for fixing the dispensing member 1 to the neck of a receptacle (not shown).

Since the internal structure of the dispensing member is not critical for the present invention, it is not described at all below. Externally, the dispensing member comprises a body 10 underlying an actuating rod 11 which is mounted to move inside the body 10 to actuate the dispensing member. In addition, the body 10 is provided with a collar 12 which projects radially outwards at its top end. Below the collar, the body is cylindrical.

The fixing means comprise a ring 20 which is in the form of a cylindrical segment. In the invention, the ring 20 is engaged on the body 10 so as to generate peripheral sealing around the body. This may be achieved by radial clamping by forming at least one segment of the ring 20 with an inside diameter slightly smaller than the outside diameter of the body. It is thus possible to ensure that the ring is fixed securely to the body, and, in addition, to avoid any risk of leakage between the ring and the body. Advantageously, the top end 201 of the ring comes into abutting contact with the bottom face 121 of the collar 12. The pump cannot therefore be pushed in through the ring.

According to another characteristic of the invention, the body 10 is also provided with one or more bulges 13 that project radially outwards, and that are situated below the collar 12 at a distance of a few

millimeters therefrom. The bulge 13 may be in the form of a continuous bead that extends over the entire periphery of the body 10. In a variant, there may be a plurality of bulges 13 in the form of localized  
5 projections advantageously distributed uniformly around the periphery of the body. Between the bulges 13 and the collar 12, the pump body forms a cylindrical segment.

The ring is of height such that it is in abutment at its top end 201 under the collar, and engaged via its  
10 bottom end with the one or more bulges 13 as can be seen in Figures 1a and 2a. Advantageously, the height of the ring 20 is slightly greater than the distance between the bottom face 121 of the collar 12 and the foot P of at least one bulge 13 so that the bottom end of the ring 20  
15 is urged by the rising slope(s) of the bulge(s) 13 against the bottom face 121 of the collar 12, thereby improving the stability of the ring 20 on the body 10. More particularly, when the fixing means are made of metal, it may be advantageous for the top end of the ring  
20 20 to be provided with an inside bevel 203 to make it easier for the ring to pass over the bulge(s) 13, and thereby to avoid any damage being done either to the bulges or to the body 10. Naturally, such a bevel may also be provided on fixing means made of molded plastic.  
25 In practice, a metal ring has a height that is slightly less than the height of a ring made of plastic because the metal ring has smaller deformation. As can be seen in Figure 2a, the bottom end of the ring 20 extends to the vicinity of the outermost point of the bulge 13 by  
30 means of its material being deformed slightly, whereas the bottom end of the metal ring shown in Figure 1a extends only very slightly beyond the foot P of the bulge 13 in order to avoid any deformation of the body 10.

Conventionally, the fixing means include a radial  
35 flange that extends outwards and that serves to come into abutment against the neck of the receptacle, with a gasket 3 being interposed. This radial flange 21 is

connected to the bottom end of the ring 20. Around its outside periphery, the radial flange 21 is extended downwards by a socket 22 serving to be crimped onto the neck of the receptacle when the fixing means are made of metal, or to be screwed or snap-fastened onto the neck of the receptacle when the fixing means are made of molded plastic.

It should be noted that the collar 12 abuts against the top end 201 of the ring 20 so that it is impossible for the body 10 to become disengaged from the ring 20 when actuating the dispensing member by pressing on the actuating rod 11. This offers an advantage over prior art techniques, in which the collar 12 of the dispensing member is snap-fastened from below in a recess so that it is possible for the dispensing member to be disengaged from the recess in the fixing means by pressing strongly on the actuating rod. Such a risk is completely avoided with the present invention.

It can also be noted that the bulge 13 may be implemented on the body 10, and that the ring may be held in place between the collar and the bulge without leaktight contact being established between the ring and the body.



CLAIMS

- 1/ A fluid dispenser device designed to be mounted on the neck of a receptacle, said device comprising a dispensing member (1), such as a pump or a valve, and fixing means  
5 (2) for fixing the dispensing member to the neck of the receptacle, said dispensing member comprising a body (10) whose top end is provided with a collar (12) that projects outwards, said fluid dispenser device being characterized in that the fixing means comprise a  
10 substantially cylindrical ring (20) engaged on the body (10) under the collar, said ring (20) being in peripheral leaktight contact with the body by being radially clamped thereon.
- 15 2/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1, in which the ring (20) defines a top end (201) in abutment under the collar (12).
- 3/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 1 or 2, in  
20 which said body (10) also forms at least one outwardly-projecting bulge (13) situated below the collar (12), the ring (20) being disposed between the collar (12) and said at least one bulge (13) so that the ring is locked therebetween.
- 25 4/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3, in which the ring (20) is of height slightly greater than the distance between the bottom face (121) of the collar (12) and the foot (P) of the bulge (13).
- 30 5/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3 or 4, in which the bulge (13) extends over the entire periphery of the body so as to form an outwardly projecting bead.
- 35 6/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 3 or 4, in which a plurality of localized bulges (13) are provided that are distributed around the periphery of the body.

- 7/ A fluid dispenser device according to any preceding claim, in which the ring (20) is made of metal.
- 5 8/ A fluid dispenser device according to any one of claims 3 to 7, in which the ring (20) is made of plastic.
- 9/ A fluid dispenser device according to any preceding claim, in which the free top end (201) of the ring (20)  
10 is provided with an inside bevel (203) to make it easier for the ring (20) to pass over the bulge (13).
- 10/ A fluid dispenser device according to any preceding claim, in which the ring (20) is extended at its bottom  
15 end by a radial flange (21) serving to come into abutment against the neck of the receptacle with a gasket (3) being interposed.
- 11/ A fluid dispenser device according to claim 8, in  
20 which the radial flange (21) is extended downwards by a socket (22) suitable for being crimped, screwed, or snap-fastened onto the neck of the receptacle.

A B S T R A C T

A DISPENSER DEVICE HAVING A FITTED FIXING RING

5           A fluid dispenser device designed to be mounted on  
the neck of a receptacle, said device comprising a  
dispensing member (1), such as a pump or a valve, and  
fixing means (2) for fixing the dispensing member to the  
neck of the receptacle, said dispensing member comprising  
10 a body (10) whose top end is provided with a collar (12)  
that projects outwards, said fluid dispenser device being  
characterized in that the fixing means comprise a  
substantially cylindrical ring (20) engaged on the body  
(10) under the collar, said ring (20) being in peripheral  
15 leaktight contact with the body by being radially clamped  
thereon.

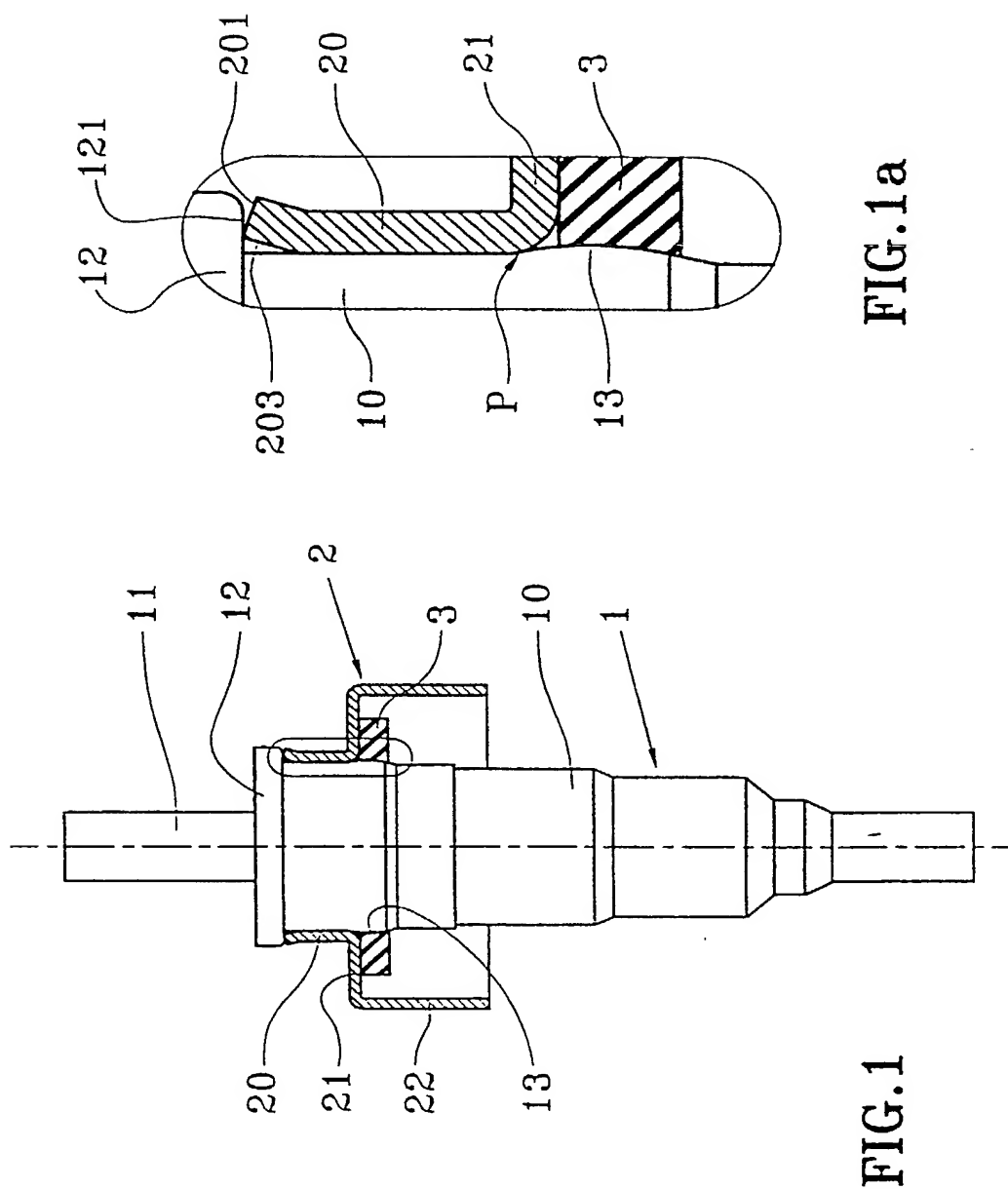
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25

30

35 Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the  
Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made  
subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2,  
38.2, and/or 48.3.

1/2



2/2

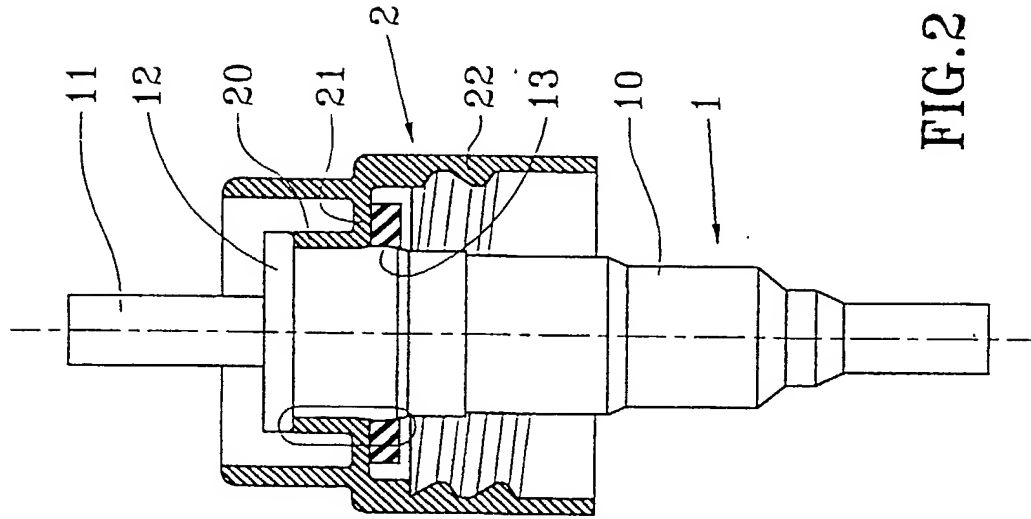


FIG. 2

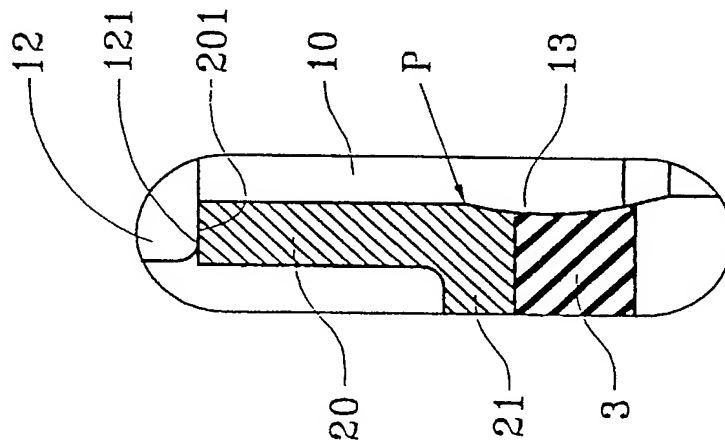
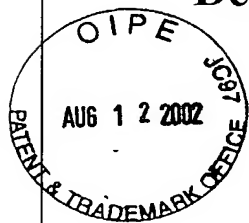


FIG. 2a

## Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

## Déclaration et pouvoirs pour demande de brevet

### French Language Declaration



En tant que l'inventeur nommé ci-après, je déclare par le présent acte que :

Mon domicile, mon adresse postale et ma nationalité sont ceux figurant ci-dessous à côté de mon nom.

Je crois être le premier inventeur original et unique (si un seul nom est mentionné ci-dessous), ou l'un des premiers co-inventeurs originaux (si plusieurs noms sont mentionnés ci-dessous) de l'objet revendiqué, pour lequel une demande de brevet a été déposée concernant l'invention intitulée

et dont la description est fournie ci-joint à moins que la case suivante n'ait été cochée :

- ☐ a été déposée le \_\_\_\_\_  
sous le numéro de demande des Etats-Unis ou le numéro  
de demande international PCT  
\_\_\_\_\_ (n° de confirmation \_\_\_\_\_)  
et modifiée le \_\_\_\_\_  
(le cas échéant).

Je déclare par le présent acte avoir passé en revue et compris le contenu de la description ci-dessus, revendications comprises, telles que modifiées par toute modification dont il aura été fait référence ci-dessus.

Je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

# A DISPENSER DEVICE HAVING A FITTED

## FIXING RING

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

- ☐ was filed on **September 12, 2000**  
as United States Application Number or PCT  
International Application Number  
**PCT/FR00/02516** (Conf. No. \_\_\_\_\_ )  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

## French Language Declaration

Je revendique par le présent acte avoir la priorité étrangère, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(a)-(d) ou § 365(b) du Code des Etats-Unis, sur toute demande étrangère de brevet ou certificat d'inventeur ou, en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(a) du même Code, sur toute demande internationale PCT désignant au moins un pays autre que les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, en cochant la case, j'ai aussi indiqué ci-dessous toute demande étrangère de brevet, tout certificat d'inventeur ou toute demande internationale PCT ayant une date de dépôt précédant celle de la demande à propos de laquelle une priorité est revendiquée.

Prior foreign application(s)  
Demande(s) de brevet antérieure(s)

<u>99/11501</u>	<u>France</u>
(Number)	(Country)
(Numéro)	(Pays)

<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
(Number)	(Country)
(Numéro)	(Pays)

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(e) du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet provisoire effectuée aux Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous.

<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)
(N° de demande)	(Date de dépôt)

<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)
(N° de demande)	(Date de dépôt)

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 120 du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet effectuée aux Etats-Unis, ou en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(c) du même Code, de toute demande internationale PCT désignant les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, dans la mesure où l'objet de chacune des revendications de cette demande de brevet n'est pas divulgué dans la demande antérieure américaine ou internationale PCT, en vertu des dispositions du premier paragraphe du Titre 35, § 112 du Code des Etats-Unis, je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations, dont j'ai pu disposer entre la date de dépôt de la demande antérieure et la date de dépôt de la demande nationale ou internationale PCT de la présente demande :

<u>PCT/FR00/02516</u>	<u>September 12, 2000</u>
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)
(N° de demande)	(Date de dépôt)

<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)
(N° de demande)	(Date de dépôt)

Je déclare par le présent acte que toute déclaration ci-incluse est, à ma connaissance, véridique et que toute déclaration formulée à partir de renseignements ou de suppositions est tenue pour véridique; et de plus, que toutes ces déclarations ont été formulées en sachant que toute fausse déclaration volontaire ou son équivalent est passible d'une amende ou d'une incarcération, ou des deux, en vertu de la Section 1001 du Titre 18 du Code des Etats-Unis, et que de telles déclarations volontairement fausses risquent de compromettre la validité de la demande de brevet ou du brevet délivré à partir de celle-ci.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below, and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Claimed  
Droit de priorité revendiqué  
Yes/Oui    No/Non

<u>September 15, 1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
(Day/Month/Year Filed)	
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)	

<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
(Day/Month/Year Filed)	
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
(Status: patented, pending, abandoned)	
(Statut : breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)	

<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
(Status: patented, pending, abandoned)	
(Statut : breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)	

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

## French Language Declaration

POUVOIRS: je désigne par les présentes tous avocats de SUGHRUE MION, PLLC énumérés sous le Numéro de Client USPTO figurant ci-après comme mes avocats pour poursuivre la présente procédure et traiter avec l'Office des brevets et des marques (*Patent and Trademark Office*) toute affaire en liaison avec celle-ci, reconnaissant formellement que les avocats spécifiques énumérés sous ce Numéro de Client peuvent être modifiés à tout moment, à la discrétion exclusive de Sughrue Mion, PLLC, et demande que toute correspondance relative à la demande soit adressée à l'adresse mentionnée sous le même Numéro USPTO.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint all attorneys of SUGHRUE MION, PLLC who are listed under the USPTO Customer Number shown below as my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, recognizing that the specific attorneys listed under that Customer Number may be changed from time to time at the sole discretion of Sughrue Mion, PLLC, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to the address filed under the same USPTO Customer Number.

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<b>Nom complet du deuxième co-inventeur, le cas échéant</b> <u>Franck PLESSIS</u>		<b>Full name of second joint inventor, if any</b>	
Signature du deuxième inventeur	Second inventor's signature	Date <u>30/07/2002</u>	Date
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